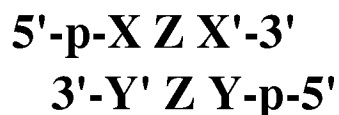


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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

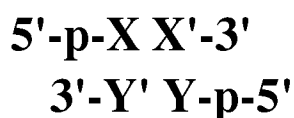
*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.*

1. (Currently amended) A multifunctional siNA molecule of Formula I:



wherein each 5'-p-XZX'-3' and 5'-p-YZY'-3' independently comprise an oligonucleotide of length between ~~about~~ 24 and ~~about~~ 38 nucleotides, XZ comprises a nucleic acid sequence that is complementary to a first target nucleic acid sequence, YZ comprises an oligonucleotide comprising nucleic acid sequence that is complementary to a second target nucleic acid sequence, Z comprises nucleotide sequence of length ~~about~~ 1 to ~~about~~ 24 nucleotides that is complementary between regions XZ and YZ, X comprises nucleotide sequence of length ~~about~~ 1 to ~~about~~ 21 nucleotides that is complementary to nucleotide sequence present in region Y', Y comprises nucleotide sequence of length ~~about~~ 1 to ~~about~~ 21 nucleotides that is complementary to nucleotide sequence present in region X', p comprises a terminal phosphate group that can independently be present or absent, and wherein each said XZ and said YZ are independently of length sufficient to stably interact with said first and said second target nucleic acid sequence, respectively, or a portion thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A multifunctional siNA molecule of Formula II:



wherein each 5'-p-XX'-3' and 5'-p-YY'-3' independently comprise an oligonucleotide of length between ~~about~~ 24 and ~~about~~ 38 nucleotides, X comprises a nucleic acid sequence that is complementary to a first target nucleic acid sequence, Y comprises an oligonucleotide comprising nucleic acid sequence that is complementary to a second target nucleic acid sequence, said X further comprises nucleotide sequence of length ~~about~~ 1 to ~~about~~ 21 nucleotides that is complementary to nucleotide sequence present in region Y', said Y further comprises nucleotide sequence of length ~~about~~ 1 to ~~about~~ 21 nucleotides that is complementary to nucleotide sequence present in region X', p

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comprises a terminal phosphate group that can independently be present or absent, and wherein each said X and said Y are independently of length sufficient to stably interact with said first and said second target nucleic acid sequence, respectively, or a portion thereof.

3. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA comprises a 3'-terminal cap moiety.
4. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 3, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.
5. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 3, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxynucleotide moiety.
6. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 3, wherein said terminal cap moiety is a dinucleotide moiety.
7. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 6, wherein said dinucleotide is dithymidine (TT).
8. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein said siNA comprises a 3'-terminal cap moiety.
9. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 8, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.
10. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 8, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxynucleotide moiety.
11. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 8, wherein said terminal cap moiety is a dinucleotide moiety.
12. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 11, wherein said dinucleotide is dithymidine (TT).
13. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA molecule comprises no ribonucleotides.
14. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA molecule

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- comprises ribonucleotides.
15. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein said siNA molecule comprises no ribonucleotides.
  16. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein said siNA molecule comprises ribonucleotides.
  17. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein any purine nucleotide in said siNA is a 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotide.
  18. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein any purine nucleotide in said siNA is a 2'-deoxy purine nucleotide.
  19. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein any pyrimidine nucleotide in said siNA is a 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotide.
  20. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 1, wherein said siNA molecule comprises 3'-nucleotide overhangs.
  21. (Currently amended) The siNA molecule of claim ~~[[24]]20~~, wherein said 3'-overhangs comprise about 1 to about 4 nucleotides.
  22. (Currently amended) The siNA molecule of claim ~~[[25]]21~~, wherein said nucleotides comprise deoxynucleotides.
  23. (Currently amended) The siNA molecule of claim ~~[[26]]22~~, wherein said deoxynucleotides are thymidine nucleotides.
  24. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein any purine nucleotide in said siNA is a 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotide.
  25. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein any purine nucleotide in said siNA is a 2'-deoxy purine nucleotide.
  26. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein any pyrimidine nucleotide in said siNA is a 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotide.
  27. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 2, wherein said siNA molecule

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comprises 3'-nucleotide overhangs.

28. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 27, wherein said 3'-overhangs comprise about 1 to about 4 nucleotides.
29. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 28, wherein said nucleotides comprise deoxynucleotides.
30. (Previously presented) The siNA molecule of claim 29, wherein said deoxynucleotides are thymidine nucleotides.
31. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the siNA molecule of claim 1 in a[[n]] pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
32. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising the siNA molecule of claim 2 in a[[n]] pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.